

REMARKS

In response to the restriction requirement dated October 19, 2005, Applicant elected, without traverse, for examination Invention I (claims 1-17 and 29-37). Claims 18-28 and 38-47 were canceled without prejudice to Applicant pursuing these claims in a subsequent divisional application.

In the Restriction Requirement dated January 25, 2006, the Examiner required further election of certain species, as set forth on pages 2, 4 and 5 of the Restriction Requirement. Applicant hereby traverses these restriction requirements because they have not been set forth clearly enough for Applicant to identify exactly what species are to be elected. For example, statements such as "species directed to embodiment described in para. 0020" are not clear because Applicant has no idea what "para. 0020" is. Statements such as "species directed to fig. 3a, 3b" are unclear because Figures 3a and 3b are directed to a **single** embodiment. Also, the restrictions identified on pages 4 and 5 include certain species from certain Inventions (e.g., II, III and VI) that have not been elected in Applicant's response dated November 3, 2005, such as "species directed to imaging methods", and "species directed to removing particles method", among others.

Notwithstanding the above, and pursuant to a few phone conversations with the Examiner attempting to clarify the restriction requirement, Applicant hereby makes the following elections. The elections set forth below are without traverse, but Applicant reserves the right to traverse any other restriction requirements that the Examiner may issue:

Distal Head Embodiments

Applicant elects FIGS. 3A and 3B; FIGS. 4A and 4B are not elected.

Applicant elects Titanium and Titanium alloys for the material of the distal head.

Guidewire Embodiments

Applicant elects guidewire aperture location 66b; 66a is not elected.

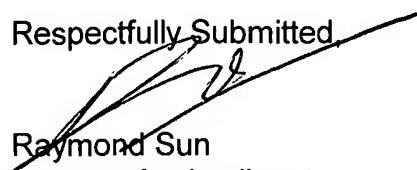
Sonic Connector Embodiments

Applicant elects FIG. 6; FIG. 5 is not elected.

Applicant believes that the above elections sufficiently address claims 1-17 and 29-37. Based on the above elections, claims 5, 6, 9, 17, 34 and 35 have been canceled without prejudice as being directed to the non-elected embodiments. ***If the Examiner still requires further restrictions, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to identify the specific species/embodiments that Applicant is to choose from.***

Prompt examination and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned if there are informalities that can be resolved in a phone conversation, or if the Examiner has any amendments which may place the pending claims in condition for allowance.

Respectfully Submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper and its enclosures are being deposited with the United States Postal service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Date: February 24, 2006

By:



Raymond Sun